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Government
Publications

Gogama District Fisheries Plan



Ministry of
Natural
Resources

DRAFT

Looking to the year 2000 in the Gogama District

To the novice, fishing looks pretty simple: you just bait the hook, drop your line, and reel in a big one.

Of course, good anglers realize the trick lies in knowing what kinds of bait to use, when and where to fish, and how to get them in your boat.

It's the same with good fishery management. To some people, fishery management means stocking lakes with more fish. But that's just one aspect.

Good fishery management takes solid knowledge about the hows, wheres, whens and whys of everything that can affect a fishery.

It means understanding that without good management fishing quality suffers—taking both tourist dollars and important recreational activity down with it.

And it means having the ability to put all this information together in a workable fishery management program.

That is the aim of the Gogama District Fisheries Management Plan which is

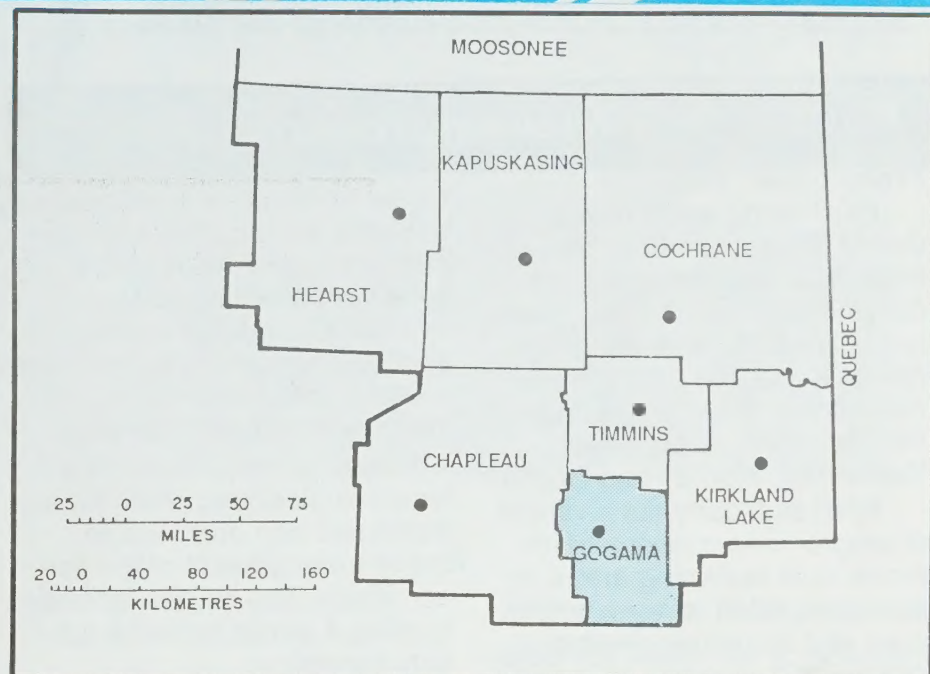
being prepared by the Ministry of Natural Resources. It will set out the targets and strategies needed to support high quality fishing in Gogama District to the year 2000.

But we need your help to develop the plan. As the resource user, you can provide input that will assist us in formulating an accurate, effective plan.

That's why we created this tabloid. In it, you will find information on challenges facing Gogama District fishing and the options and strategies MNR is considering for its fisheries management plan.

We would like you to read the material on these pages, and tell us what you think. Your ideas and comments will be considered in the writing of the draft plan.

If you care about local fishing quality, this is your chance to do something about it. Help us keep Gogama fishing strong!



Planning for a developing resource

Looking after the future of a resource is a long-term proposition. But, before we start planning for the year 2000, it is important that we understand how our fishery works in 1988.

Part of our knowledge is based on the Gogama District Land Use Guidelines. This study examined the relationships between all Gogama resources and recommended that individual management plans be prepared for each. That recommendation was the

start of the fisheries management plan.

The next step lies in understanding current management practices and the problems that will continue to threaten our fisheries over the coming years.

For Gogama fisheries management, the main issues to be dealt with are overfishing, habitat damage or degradation and public knowledge of fish biology and fisheries management.

Overfishing usually occurs on walleye and trout waters which are most accessible. Because overfishing often removes most of the reproductive age groups, it can do serious, long-term harm.

Fish stocking programs are one way to help maintain trout populations. Adult transfers, particularly walleye, are also used to introduce new species into lakes and promote a variety of angling experiences.

Creating fish sanctuaries during certain points in the season is an option used to prevent overfishing, as are catch limits and good enforcement of harvesting regulations. Finally, assessments and studies help MNR staff keep ahead of overfishing problems.

Habitat damage is often the result of human activities. Stream crossings and other shoreline development can cause harmful soil erosion into spawning beds or affect water quality.



There is more to fishing and good fisheries management than what meets the eye.

Continued next page



Successful stocking requires good knowledge and planning.

Planning for a developing resource

From cover page

Fluctuating water levels, due to draw down from behind man-made dams also hurts fish spawning activity. Lakes where water level changes occasionally cause problems include Mesomikenda, Mattagami, Minisinakwa, Loonwing, Kapiskong, Sinclair and Scotia.

MNR staff carry out a variety of programs to protect and improve local spawning areas. In particular, MNR reviews timber, road and shoreline development planning in the area and works with Ontario Hydro to reduce the impact of its activities on the fishery.

Most important, though, is the awareness and involvement of fisheries users. MNR is firmly committed to working with all fisheries users to solve fishing problems and promote an understanding of fisheries issues.

Many people have volunteered their time to work on important Community Fisheries Involvement Programs (CFIP) to rehabilitate or improve fisheries habitat and enhance the fisheries.

But increased public understanding is needed of all user groups requirements and their social/economic impacts. Fisheries management requires the balancing of all these needs.

Designated tourism lakes, for instance, cannot maintain their attractiveness if overuse results in poor fishing opportu-

nities. At the same time, access provides fishing, hunting and camping opportunities for a wide variety of users. Also, overfishing walleye makes little sense when other opportunities exist for smallmouth bass, yellow perch and northern pike.

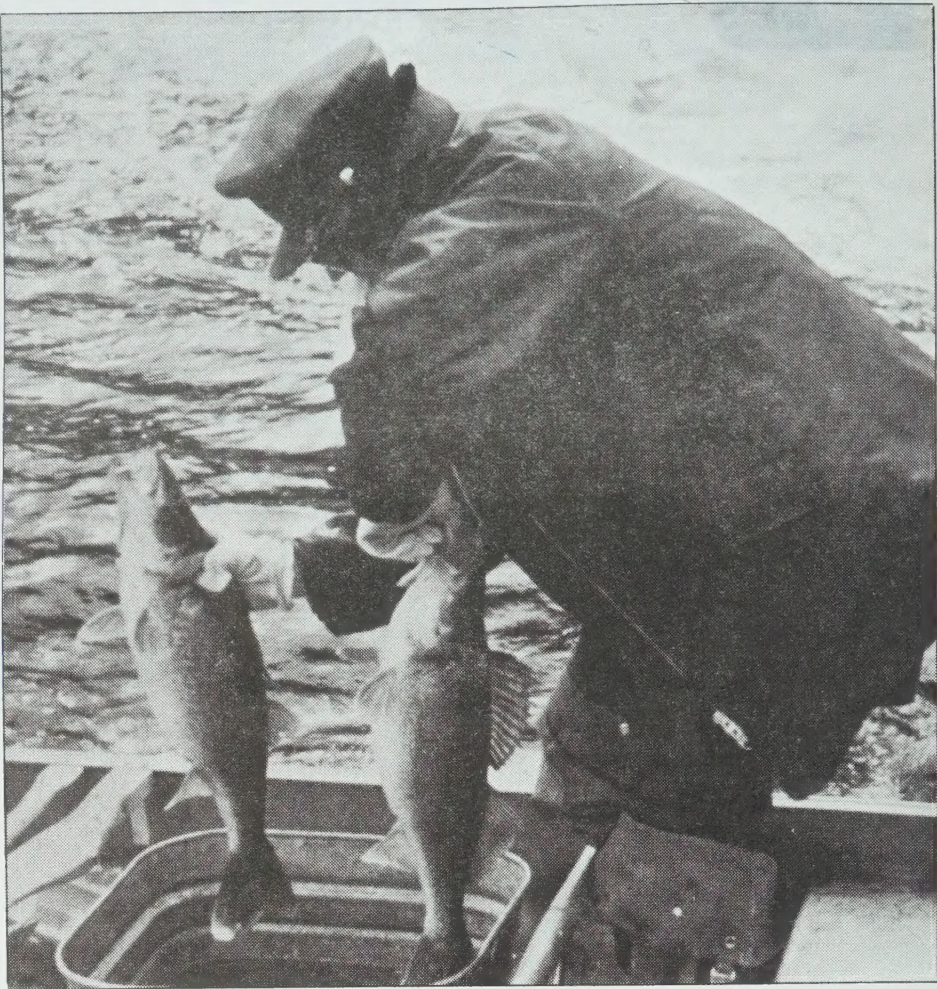
Better communication between anglers and MNR fishery managers can only lead to better management of the fishery. That's one reason behind forming a public fisheries advisory committee.

The committee was selected to provide expertise from a cross-section of the surrounding communities, resource users and interest groups. They will provide advice and direction to fisheries management planning.

After reading this tabloid, you have a good idea of current fishery management and the challenges that lie ahead. Now help us plan the future.

The table that follows outlines the various options being considered for the District Fisheries Management Plan. This is the place where your input is most needed.

Read the material carefully, then give us your comments. Your ideas will be considered in the writing of the draft fisheries management plan. Once the draft plan is written your comments will again be invited.



Adult walleye transfers create new fishing opportunities.



Habitat improvement and control of water level fluctuation are just two aspects of fisheries management.

Challenges for the future

Issue	Concern	Options
Overfishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newly accessed lakes Removal of most desirable species Illegal harvest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access: disperse/curtail Lake or zone management Promote angling of underutilized species Promote catch and release fishing Fish stocking/adult transfers Regulation changes Directed enforcement
Habitat Degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Siltation of spawn beds Water level fluctuation Water quality (acid precipitation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitate degraded fish habitat Identify and protect critical habitat Direct enforcement to protect critical habitat Continue to negotiate water level fluctuations Monitor acidity of sensitive lakes
Public Perception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unrealistic demands of resources uses Awareness of other user group requirements and their social/economic impacts (i.e. access, remote fishing, cottaging, etc.) Familiarity with fisheries management The role of stocking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform public of resources limitations/reduce expectations Increase awareness of all user needs and their social/economic impact Educate public about fisheries management Involve the public in programs and planning

Get the goods on the Gogama District

Here's a chance to test your knowledge of Gogama District fishing. Remember, the more informed you are about the local fishery, the better you can help MNR formulate the District fisheries management plan.

What portion of Gogama District is covered by water?

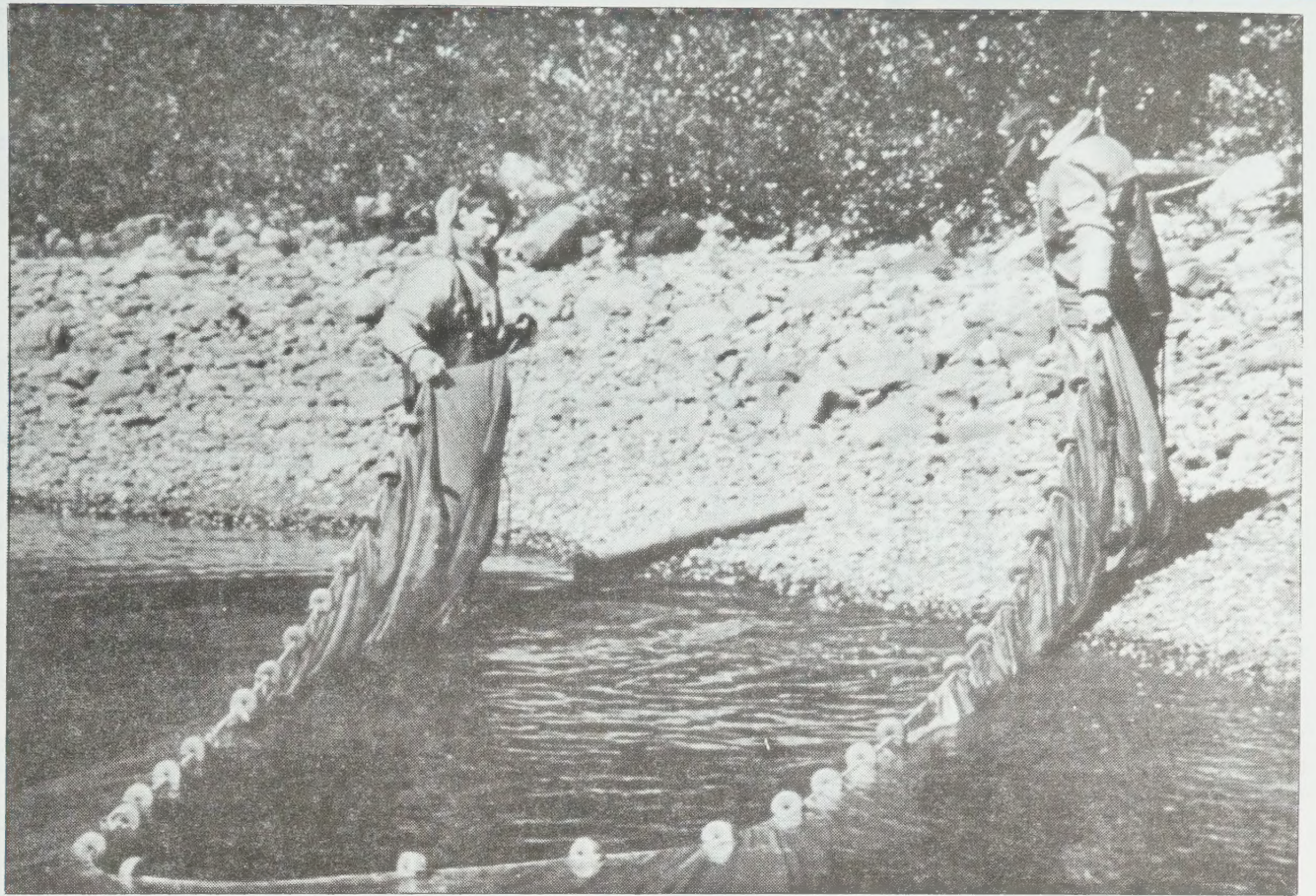
The district stretches across 7,752 square kilometres, nine percent is covered by lakes and rivers. There are 2,300 lakes and 190 rivers and streams to be managed.

Which sportfish species are common to district warm waters? What about cold waters?

Walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass, and yellow perch are found in local warm water lakes and rivers, while lake trout, brook trout, aurora trout, rainbows, splake and lake whitefish are found in cold water bodies in the district.

Does water temperature affect lake productivity?

Yes. The northern climate limits fish growth and productivity. This is why the lakes and rivers in the area cannot sustain heavy fishing pressure.



Monitoring the fisheries is part of good management.

Is Commercial fishing a threat to recreational angling in Gogama?

Not at all. The district's two commercial fisheries harvest whitefish and suckers from seven lakes. Since these species are underused by recreational anglers, commercial fishing helps balance fish-

ing pressure on these lakes.

Baitfish operations are the only other form of commercial fishing in the district. Last year, about 12,000 dozen baitfish were harvested.

Can sportfish production in Gogama support angler demand?

Yes, the current annual harvest for all species is well below the allowable harvest calculated by MNR. By the year 2000, we expect that the annual harvest for all species will remain well below the allowed harvest.

But, overfishing does occur in some of the more accessible lakes containing walleye or trout.

Should good access to all district lakes be a priority for Gogama fishery management?

While road access is important for many district lakes, some waters are more useful if they are kept remote and relatively untouched.

Many resident anglers enjoy the challenge of accessing remote waters and the opportunity to catch that big fish. Likewise, high-quality fishing in a remote setting is a big drawing card for tourists to the area. Tourism dollars stimulate the local economy, so it's important to designate some waters for this purpose.

Sportfish licence funds boost Gogama fisheries

The resident sportfishing licence is already helping to improve walleye, smallmouth bass and trout fishing in local waters. So far, five new projects have been funded, including spawning bed rehabilitations and the introduction of walleye and smallmouth bass into new lakes.

The resident sport fishing licence was created last January. It requires Ontario residents aged 18 to 64 to purchase a licence if they wish to fish in provincial waters.

Revenue from the licences boosts funding for Ontario fisheries programs.

Participate in fishery's future

How do you make your comments?

Read this tabloid, consider how closely the material reflects your concerns and your understanding of fishing requirements in Gogama District.


After completing the questionnaire that is included, submit it to the Ministry of Natural Resources Gogama District Office

within four weeks. Include your name and address to ensure that you receive a copy of the draft management plan and invitations to future public reviews.

The biologist at your MNR District Office will be happy to discuss any questions or comments you may have on material in the tabloid.



Planning will help improve our fisheries for the future.



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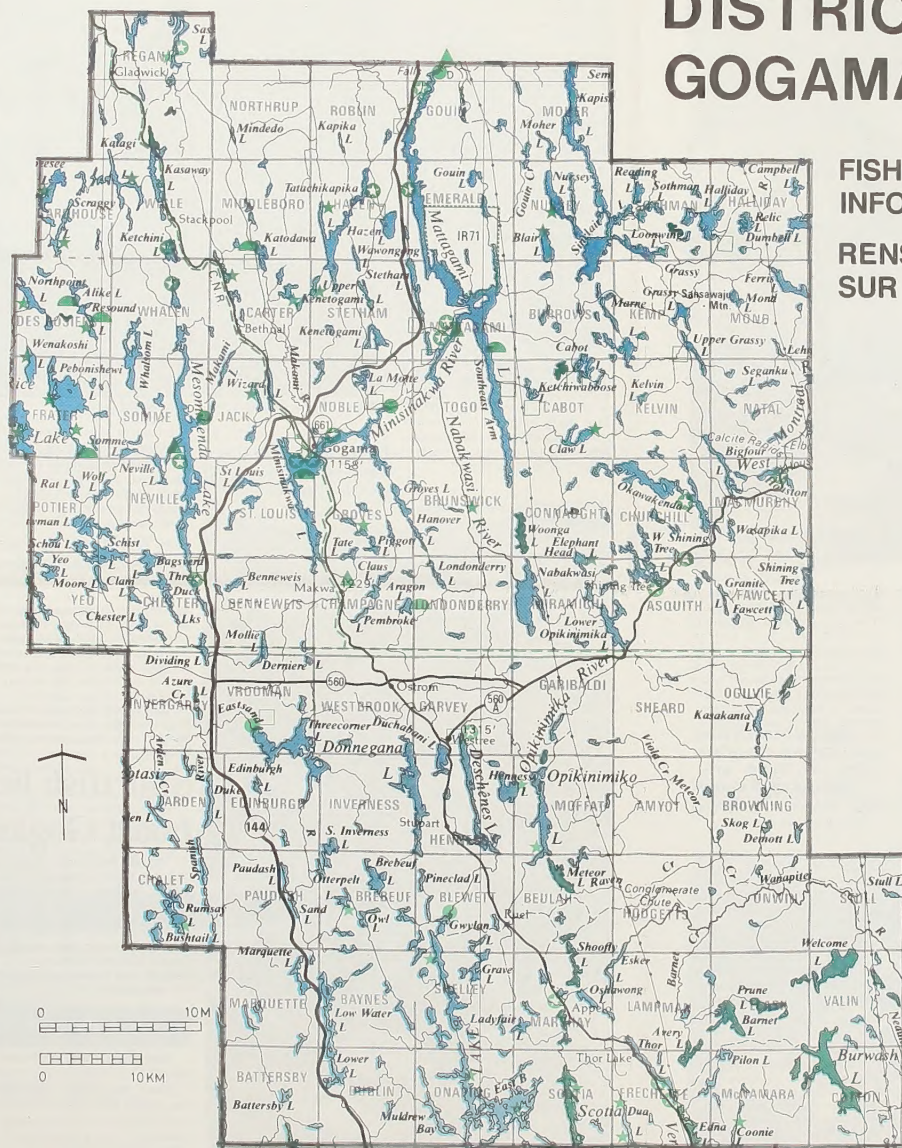
DISTRICT DE GOGAMA DISTRICT

FISHERIES BACKGROUND INFORMATION

RENSEIGNEMENTS GÉNÉRAUX SUR LES PÊCHES

LEGEND / LÉGENDE

- Coldwater Lakes
Lacs d'eau Froide
- ▲ Fish Sanctuaries
Réserves de Pêche
- Fishing Division Boundary
Limite de Division pour la Pêche
- Dams
Barrages
- Access Points
Points D'accès
- ★ Tourism Lodges
Pavillons Touristiques
- ★ Tourism Outpost Camps
Camps Touristiques Éloignés
- Commercially Fished Lakes
Lacs pour la pêche Commerciale
- Indian Reserves
Réserves Indiennes



Renseignez vous sur le district de Gogama

Nous vous proposons d'évaluer vos connaissances sur les pêches du district de Gogama. Rappelez-vous que mieux vous connaissez les pêches de votre localité, plus vous serez en mesure d'aider le MRN à élaborer le Plan de gestion des pêches du district.

Quelle proportion les étendues d'eau respésentent-elles dans le district de Gogama?

Le district a une superficie de 7,752 kilomètres carrés, dont 9 pour 100 sont couverts par des lacs et des rivières. On y compte 2,300 lacs et 190 rivières et cours d'eau devant être gérés.

Quelles espèces de poisson gibier retrouve-t-on dans les eaux tempérées du district?

Oui. Le climat du Nord nuit à la croissance des populations et à la productivité des lacs et rivières. C'est pourquoi les eaux de cette région ne peuvent faire l'objet d'une pêche intensive.

La température de l'eau influence-t-elle la productivité du lac?

La pêche commerciale permet d'équilibrer leurs populations. La pêche au poisson d'appât est la seule pêche commerciale pratiquée dans le district. L'an dernier, les récoltes atteignaient environ 12,000 douzaines de poissons.

La production de poisson gibier peut-elle suffire à la demande de pêche sportive?

Oui. A l'heure actuelle, les récoltes annuelles de toutes les espèces sont considérablement inférieures aux récoltes permises par le MRN et, selon nos prévisions, il en sera ainsi jusqu'en l'an 2000.

Les fonds recueillis des permis viennent en aide aux pêches

Le permis de pêche sportive de l'Ontario à été créé en janvier dernier. Les résidents de l'Ontario âgés entre 18 et 64 ans doivent d'abord se procurer ce permis s'ils désirent pêcher dans les eaux de la province. Les revenus provenant de la vente de ce permis contribuent au financement des programmes de pêche de l'Ontario.

Participez à l'avenir des pêches

Examinez le présent résumé et déterminez si les renseignements qu'il renferme retiennent vos préoccupations en ce qui a trait aux besoins de pêches du district de Gogama. Envoyez les questionnaires ci-joint dûment rempli au bureau de district de Gogama du ministère des Richesses naturelles d'ici quatre semaines. Inscrivez vos nom et adresse afin de recevoir un exemplaire du Plan de gestion provisoire et une invitation à la prochaine séance de consultation publique.

La pêche commerciale menace-t-elle la pêche sportive dans le district de Gogama?

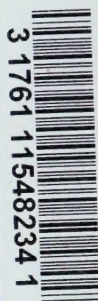
Non. Les deux industries de



L'amélioration de l'habitat et le contrôle des fluctuations du niveau d'eau ne sont que deux aspects de la gestion des pêches.

Des connaissances approfondies et une planification avisée sont la clé du succès de l'empoissonnement.





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